



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIDLAND CARDIOLOGIST SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING MEDICARE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Midland today, Dr. Piyush V. Patel was sentenced to 21 months in federal prison for executing a scheme to defraud the federal government, namely Medicare, of more than \$287,000.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered that Dr. Patel pay a \$10,000 fine and approximately \$660,000 restitution to Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and other insurance entities who cover federal employees. He also ordered that Dr. Patel be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term and placed him under home confinement until he reports to the Bureau of Prisons in November.

On May 3, 2005, Dr. Patel pled guilty to the fraud charge. By pleading guilty, Dr. Patel admitted that after being suspended from the Medicare program, he used a provider number assigned to his wife, Dr. Meenakshi Patel, to submit numerous claims to Medicare. The submission of those fraudulent claims occurred between approximately June 2003 and February 2004.

"Sending corrupt doctors like Dr. Patel to prison is a reminder that ripping off the American taxpayer will not be tolerated," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On June 27, 2002, Dr. Patel pled guilty to Misprision of Felony in the Northern District of Texas. As a result of that guilty plea, Dr. Patel was placed on probation for three years and prohibited from making claims to or receiving payments from Medicare for any health care services he might perform. On a judicial transfer from the Northern District of Texas, Judge Junell today revoked Dr. Patel's probation and sentenced him to 10 months imprisonment to run concurrent to the 21-month prison term.

The Midland case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Personnel Management. Assistant United States Attorney John S. Klassen prosecuted the Midland case on behalf of the government.

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